



National Fire Protection Association

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Raymond B. Bizal, P.E.
Senior Regional Director

August 8, 2017

The Honorable Ron Menor
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3077

Subject: Bill 69 Residential High-Rise – Support

2017 AUG -8 PM 3:07
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU

Dear Chair Menor & Council Members:

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was saddened to hear of the tragic losses at the Marco Polo building fire.

Many jurisdictions across the United States have implemented requirements to retrofit high-rise buildings with fire sprinkler systems, which will safeguard their citizens from fire in a high-rise building. This is in line with national model codes (NFPA 1, *Fire Code*; NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*; and NFPA 5000, *Building, Construction and Safety Code*) that establish a standard of care requiring existing high-rise buildings to be retrofitted with life-saving fire sprinkler systems. It is all the more necessary for residential occupancies to have the protection of fire sprinklers since about 80% of fire fatalities in the U.S. happen in residences.

We commend you for consideration of a residential high-rise fire sprinkler retrofit ordinance. NFPA fully supports requiring that existing high-rise buildings be retrofitted with life-saving fire sprinkler systems. We are in contact with the Honolulu Fire Department, and will assist the Residential Fire Safety Advisory Committee during their deliberations.

NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization, founded in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

Sincerely,

Raymond B. Bizal, P.E.
Senior Regional Director